

Fund Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$475 Million and Reauthorize Program

The Alliance for the Great Lakes requests Congress and the Trump Administration:

- The Trump administration should propose at least \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the FY2026 President's Budget request to Congress.
- Congress should fund the GLRI at \$475 million for FY2026.
- Congress should reauthorize the GLRI program for the next five years (FY 2027-2031).
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should make progress on finishing cleanup of most Areas of Concern by 2030.
- U.S. EPA should implement its Action Plan IV to address community needs across the region.

Background: Congress established and funded the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in 2010 to allow the U.S. EPA, working in collaboration with other federal agencies, states, and tribes, to provide grant funds to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

The funding addresses on-the-ground restoration projects, including habitat restoration, reducing non-point source pollution, cleaning up legacy pollution and toxic sediments, and preventing the establishment or spread of invasive species.

To date, GLRI has funded more than 8,000 individual projects totaling \$3.7 billion and has greatly improved the quality of life in the region and produced environmental and economic benefits. Major accomplishments include: providing assistance on more than 1.8 million farmland acres for nutrient management actions; clearing 6,700 river miles of dams and barriers; delisting 7 Areas of Concern; and enhancing and restoring 480,000 acres of habitat. It is estimated that for every dollar spent, an additional three dollars of value is added to the regional economy.

GLRI work remains ongoing as EPA is implementing Action Plan IV, which will guide the program's investments starting in 2025 for the next five years.

Every GLRI project dollar spent 2010-2016:

- Will produce \$3.35 of additional economic activity through 2036
- Will generate \$1.62 in additional economic activity in tourism-related industries through 2036
- Produced quality of life improvements worth \$1.08 to residents in coastal communities

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